

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

Spaulding High School Library  
March 25, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Chioldi (BC) - Chair  
Ed Rousse (SHS) – Vice Chair  
Victoria Pompei (BT)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joe Blakely (SHS)  
Chris Riddell (BC)

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Nye, Principal (BTMES)  
Jacquelyn Ramsay-Tolman, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Paul Malone                      Ben Matthews                      Lauren May – Early Education Coordinator                      Sonya Spaulding

**1. Call to Order**

**Mrs. Chioldi called the Monday, March 25, 2019, meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., which was held at the Spaulding High School Library.**

**2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

None.

**3. Review / Approval of Minutes – November 25, 2018 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting**

**On a motion by Mr. Rousse, seconded by Mrs. Pompei, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the November 25, 2018 BSU Curriculum Committee Meeting.**

**4. Visitors and Communications**

None.

**5. Early Ed Presentation**

Lauren May, Early Education Coordinator introduced herself to the Committee and provided a brief overview of her experience. Ms. May began a Power Point Presentation titled BSU Pre-Kindergarten Programs. The presentation included a historical overview of the programs which are serving mainly students with special education needs. Over the last 5 years, BTMES has expanded from 1 classroom to 4 (120 students) and BCEMS has expanded from 2 to 3 classrooms (90 students). Classes are held in the morning and afternoon. Each class is 2 hours and 45 minutes long. A sample of the daily schedule was presented; arrival, meeting time, center time/small group time, story time, snack time, outside time, and dismissal. The curriculum aligns with Vermont Early Learning Standards. Act 166, which became effective on 07/01/16, requires that 3 and 4 year olds receive pre-k services (10 hours per week, for 35 weeks each year). The BSU currently partners with 8 local private providers, serving approximately 38 students. The BSU pays tuition to the partner providers (approximately \$3,200 per child/year). This year, an extended day service model was started for children with intensive special needs. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and includes PT, OT, SLP, and SE services. The program, which has the capacity to serve 8 students, currently serves 6 students. Assessment is performed using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment. This year marks the first year that pre-k data has been loaded to Infinite Campus. Now that data is being loaded to Infinite Campus, tracking data will be available to follow students in future years. Student data is available to kindergarten teachers. The past few years have seen increased coordination and sharing of information between pre-k staff and kindergarten staff. This increased coordination and planning has been very beneficial, and kindergarten staff members have advised that the pre-school program has better prepared students for entering kindergarten. Transportation is provided for pre-school students (approximately 75% of students use the transportation). The use of transportation in the pre-school year(s) also assists with the transition to kindergarten. Teachers and special educators have formed Professional Learning Groups (PLGs). Goals of the program and learning groups include a focus on balancing academic and social-emotional needs and easing the transition to kindergarten. The pre-kindergarten program is currently overseen by two agencies, the Agency of Education (AOE) and Health and Human Services (HHS). Oversight by two agencies can be complicated. The Secretary of Education wants to make things less complex. Governor Scott is committed to finding new revenue sources to fund pre-kindergarten programs. Mr. Malone queried regarding funding.

Mrs. Nye commended Ms. May for her presentation. Mrs. Nye advised that it is fantastic to see 3 and 4 year olds participating with older students. Mrs. Nye reiterated that the pre-k program and staff coordination/planning (with kindergarten staff) are having a positive impact on children as they move into kindergarten.

## **6. Continuous Improvement Plan Update**

Four documents were distributed; 'Preparing for Collaborative Inquiry', Components of a Multi-tiered system of Supports/Rtll', 'English Language Arts- 2017-18 Barre Town-All Students', and 'Notice & Wonder Protocol – Data' (from The Practice of Authentic PLCs: A Guide to Effective Teacher Teams). Mrs. Tolman advised that the BSU is moving from the CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan) being an event, to being a culture of continuous improvement throughout the year. Mrs. Tolman advised that the Needs Assessment Team meets twice a month and everyone has a voice. Mrs. Tolman provided an overview of the 'Collaborative Inquiry' and 'Components of a Multi-tiered System of Supports' documents, and read some of the teachers' responses to the question 'I dream of a school that ....'. It was noted that data is an important part of identifying and prioritizing areas for improvement. Data has been reviewed and high priority needs have been identified at each grade level (elementary, middle, and high school). Meeting attendees participated in an exercise utilizing the 'Notice & Wonder Protocol' document and the BTEMs ELA SBAC results document. It was noted that there are many differences in data across grade level and demographics. Mrs. Nye advised that it has been very beneficial to have teachers from both schools working together. It is believed that this collaboration will be beneficial to the students who will be entering into the same high school.

## **7. Survey Results**

Mrs. Tolman gave a Power Point Presentation of survey results, advising that for the Homework survey, there were only 33 responses from elementary school teachers. Of those responding, 60% advised that they do not assign homework. There is some concern regarding the low response rate. Data will be compiled, and will then be shared. There were 311 responses to the parent/guardian homework survey. Hard copies of the survey will be sent home with students. The survey will also be available at parent/teacher conferences. The Homework Committee has been meeting regularly since November 2018. Results and recommendations from the Homework Committee will be provided in academic year 2019/2020, and will be on a future agenda. In response to a query it was noted that approximately 85% - 89% of BTMES parents have an e-mail address on file, and 60% of BCEMS parents have an e-mail address on file. The percentage of SHS parents with an e-mail address on file is unknown. Mr. Malone feels the schools should try to use more e-mail communication.

## **8. Assessment Updates**

Mrs. Tolman advised that the BSU is prepared for 2018/2019 assessments; SBAC, PE (FitnessGram), and Science. There is a systemic approach to assessments and a team was assembled to prioritize and oversee the preparation tasks. The assessment system has been improving and worked pretty much flawlessly last year. Mrs. Tolman expressed her appreciation for the work and dependability of the assessment team. Jodi Bushway (BCEMS K – 4 PE teacher) was lauded for her efforts assisting with the implementation of FitnessGram testing. Mrs. Spaulding advised that in the future, she would like more discussion of assessments, including local assessments. Mrs. Spaulding advised that she has issues with the Assessment Policy and would like more discussion held prior to the policy being revisited by the BUUSD.

## **9. Professional Development Updates**

The last Professional Development day for academic year 2018/2019 is Friday, April 5, 2019. Mrs. Tolman displayed the BSU Elementary/Middle/High School Professional Development Plan for the day. Mrs. Tolman advised that structuring and organizing of Professional Development is new this year and has included some vertical team time, which has been very popular with staff. It was noted that art teachers will be attending Professional Development at the Hood Museum.

## **10. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

Tentative meeting dates and agenda items:

04/22/19 – PE Update (FitnessGram) and Grant Usage Update. Mrs. Chioldi is unable attend this meeting. Mr. Rouse will facilitate the April meeting.

05/20/19 – Homework Related Matters

06/24/19 – Assessment Snapshot

## **11. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mrs. Pompei, seconded by Mr. Rouse, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrea Poulin*